

Capitol Planning Commission Minutes
January 4, 2012
Iowa State Capitol, Room 305 (9:00 a.m. – 10:45am)

Members Present:

Cathy Brown, Chair
Elizabeth Isaacson
Scott Weiser

William Dikis, Vice Chair
Allison Kleis
Representative Ralph Watts

Mike Carroll
Carl Voss

Members Absent:

Senator Pat Ward
Senator Matt McCoy
Representative Dennis Cohoon

Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Staff Present for all or a portion of the meeting:

Steve Gross, DAS/GSE
Caleb Hunter, DAS
Brant Carr, DAS/GSE
Jennifer Moehlmann, DAS/GSE
Charlee Cross, DAS/GSE
Calvin Miller, DAS/GSE
Nancy Williams, DAS/GSE
Emily Narayan, DAS/GSE

Others Present for all or Portions of the Meeting

Marcia Tannian, Legislative Services Agency
Craig Cronbaugh, Legislative Services Agency
Carol Grant, Iowa Sister States
Mary Braun, Legislature
Mark Willemssen, Legislature
Scotney Fenton, RDG
Tim Lane

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Cathy Brown followed by roll call and introductions.

Welcome

Jennifer Moehlmann thanked Nancy Williams for her dedication and years of support to Committee members.

Meeting Overview and Approval of Agenda

A discussion on way-finding was added to the Site Features Committee portion of the agenda. DAS Director Mike Carroll made a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of the wayfinding discussion. Elizabeth Isaacson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2011 Meeting

MOTION: Scott Weiser made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Allison Kleis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee Presentation

Jennifer Moehlmann reviewed the Executive Summary of the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee's Annual Report and discussed the fact that recent funding has not met the growing major maintenance needs. DAS has received more than \$100 million in major maintenance projects requests, but was only appropriated \$2.5 million in funding for FY2012. Director Mike Carroll advised DAS has changed our strategy in requesting major maintenance funds because year after year we've gone to the Legislative with \$100 million or \$150 million worth of needs and we know that there is not that much money there, so this year DAS made an effort to focus the major maintenance requests on critical projects to be done in the next fiscal year.

The Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee would like to have a joint meeting with the Capitol Planning Commission later in the year. The Capitol Planning Commission is very interested in a joint meeting.

Site Features Committee Update

Teacher Boulder

Chair Cathy Brown informed the Commission the Site Features Committee met on December 16, 2011 and discussed Tim Lane's proposal regarding the "Teacher" Boulder for the West Capitol Terrace. The Site Features Committee unanimously passed a motion that the Committee had received and reviewed the application and found it to be complete and recommends the Commission approve the monument application as submitted, if it is installed by January 2013. Guest speaker Tim Lane gave a brief presentation regarding the monument proposal and reviewed the handouts. Tim Lane advised members the word "Teacher" will not be in black letters, as superimposed on the picture, but instead will be raised stone letters on the boulder. The Boulder weighs 1600 pounds. The proposed location is South and East of the existing Bryant Boulder on the West Capitol Terrace. All expenses for the purchase and installation of the Boulder will be covered by the Iowa Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD). Director Mike Carroll wanted to make sure there was an adequate foundation under the Boulder to make sure it will not settle over time. The Capitol Planning Committee unanimously passed the Site Features Committee's motion.

Japanese Bell Restoration

Carol Grant informed the Commission that the site of the Japanese Bell of Peace and Friendship on the south Capitol grounds has been selected to receive around 20 young Sakura cherry blossom trees as part of the 100th Anniversary of Japan's gift of a thousand cherry trees to Washington, D.C. in 1912. The Sakura trees will be presented to Des Moines in the spring of 2012 when conditions are ideal for planting. The trees are sponsored by the Japanese Embassy, through its Chicago Consulate office. These Sakura Centennial trees will culminate the restoration project headed by Iowa Sister States in 2010 and 2011. The Cherry Blossom Trees will be planted by DAS and are expected to bloom in 2015. A celebration of this gift of trees will be held in conjunction with the annual celebration festival on May 12, 2012.

Peace Officers' Memorial Discussion

At the July 2011 meeting, the Commission approved the relocation of the Peace Officers' Memorial to a location near the Department of Public Safety building. The relocation was delayed and is now expected to be completed before the May celebration. Chair Cathy Brown asked what material had been selected for the retaining wall. Steve Gross will investigate and report back at next meeting.

Historical Bldg. Visitors Center

Steve Gross said DAS has received five proposals in response to an RFP for the Interior/Exterior work on the Historical Building, which included an evaluation to add the Visitor's Center inside the Historical Building, rather than building a new structure. Chair Cathy Brown wanted to make sure a Visitor Center inside the Historical Building would still fill the whole visitor experience, such as providing wayfinding. Bill Dikis was concerned that the southeast corner of the Historical Building

wouldn't allow a view of the Capitol from the Visitor Center. Steve Gross said these concerns would be considered during the design process. Chair Cathy Brown reminded the Commission that the intent of the Visitor Center was to take a look at people's first arrival experience and how to channel people to get to the Capitol as well as other sites within the Capitol grounds. It is not intended to replace the Capitol tours but to provide a more holistic experience on the overall Capitol grounds.

Row House

Steve Gross informed the Commission that he will be submitting recommendations for the rowhouse to Director Carroll this month. Carl Voss asked if the recommendation will come before the Commission for a vote. Director Carroll said both options (either moving the rowhouse or demolishing it) had already been approved by the Commission but DAS will certainly let the Commission know which option is recommended. Once the site is cleared, DAS hopes to complete the final section of brick work on the West Capitol Terrace.

Wayfinding

Steve Gross advised the Committee DAS is working with Post 16 to identify parking lot issues and add visitor parking signage. DAS is currently using the most recent signage design but would welcome the Commission's guidance. Steve Gross mentioned that the Iowa Utilities Board and Office of Consumer Advocate would like to erect a new sign for their building that matches the building design, rather than the rest of the signs on the Capitol Complex. The Commission discussed the importance of consistency on building signs and the need for standards. Director Mike Carroll strongly encouraged looking at City of Des Moines scheme and bringing it to the Complex – perhaps using a different color but same style. It was agreed that DAS will gather an inventory of existing signage and information on current policies and procedures for signage and building naming and will meet with the Site Features Committee to discuss wayfinding further before the next full Commission meeting.

Staff Reports/Project Updates

Building Evaluations

Steve Gross informed members that DAS is working on estimating total building ownership costs so we know what labor and parts go into a particular building per square foot. Identifying which building is costing us significantly more than the other will provide better information to the decision makers when considering the future of a building. Director Mike Carroll advised that a building needs adequate major maintenance funding to ensure the building lasts the full lifetime. Chair Cathy Brown said in the past, the Commission had recommended the Wallace and Iowa buildings be replaced, and not repurposed. Representative Ralph Watts encouraged DAS to explore ways to set aside money for major maintenance and find ways to isolate those funds so they aren't dipped into for other purposes.

Capitol Building Interior/Exterior

Phase P work is substantially completed and DAS is working on the punch list. There are still some funds available and we're working on identifying the next projects. The West Capitol steps stone was removed and expected to be replaced this spring.

Chair Cathy Brown made a general comment that the Capitol represented itself and the people of Iowa very well during the national coverage of the caucuses despite the challenges we've been having with funding. Vice Chair Bill Dikis noted the Capitol is really one of the treasures of Iowa. He is still interesting in making it a historic landmark.

Capitol Glass Floor Video Presentation

Craig Cronbaugh showed a video presentation documenting the Capitol glass floor installation. Scott Weiser indicated that the filling up of the glass floor has made the basement dark and suggested DAS consider additional lighting that would enhance the downstairs experiences for visitors and staff.

Capitol Events

See list attached.

Other Business

Overview of next meeting

Next meeting will be April 18, 2012 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Lucas Building – rooms 319/320.

Comments and Discussion

Jennifer Moehlmann suggested moving the July meeting from Wednesday July 18th to Thursday July 19 to have a joint meeting with the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the Commission agreed.

Chair Cathy Brown requested documentation on what projects were included in the \$15 million Capital request for major maintenance funding.

Representative Watts advised he would like to have a meeting with the Vertical Infrastructure Committee at least once a year.

Carl Voss mentioned the lack of a sidewalk on Finkbine between Court Avenue and Walnut. With more people walking between the buildings on Court Avenue, he suggested DAS should consider including a sidewalk in a future budget.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.